

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On Page 2, Paragraph 6:

The switch mechanism according to the present invention, comprising at least a dial component that can be rotated, a first gear that is externally fitted at the outside of the dial component to rotate together with the dial component and includes a predetermined number of teeth formed at an external circumferential side surface thereof and a second gear that includes a predetermined number of teeth formed therein and drives a driven member connected thereto, includes a dial switch mechanism structure in which the rotation of the dial component is transmitted from the first gear to the second gear via a relay component ~~(claim 4)~~. The driven member may be an air-conditioning door, such as an output mode switching door or an air mix door. The second gear may assume a fan shape, with the predetermined number of teeth formed at a circumferential surface assuming the shape of a circular arc. In addition, the second gear and the air-conditioning door (the output mode switching door or the air mix door) may be connected with each other via a cable so as to open/close the air conditioning door through a manual cable drive system.

On Page 3, Paragraph 1:

[0011] The dial component in the switch mechanism according to the present invention assumes a tubular shape with open ends on the two sides thereof, and a push-button switch mechanism that includes at least a sliding component slidably housed along the axis of the dial component and having a push portion located at the bottom thereof and a substrate having a switch portion to contact the push portion, is fitted inside the dial component ~~(claim 2)~~.

On Page 3, Paragraph 2:

The switch mechanism according to the present invention is further characterized in that an ON indicator member is housed inside the sliding component ~~(claim 3)~~.

On Page 3, Paragraph 3:

According to the present invention ~~disclosed in claim 1~~, a dial type switch mechanism that can be turned simply with the fingertips is achieved. This switch mechanism assures superior operability and better safety for the driver, since, unlike a sliding switch mechanism that must be operated by shifting the arm by a great extent or a knob switch mechanism that must be operated by twisting the wrist or the upper arm, the switch mechanism according to the present invention can be operated without the driver having to change his posture.

On Page 3, Paragraph 2:

In addition, according to the invention ~~disclosed in claim 1~~, the dial component in the dial switch mechanism is allowed to assume a hollow tubular shape with open ends by forming gear teeth at the first gear fitted on the outside of the dial component and disposing the relay component for transmitting the rotation of the dial component to the air-conditioning door at an offset position outside the dial component. As a result, the sliding component constituting the push-button switch mechanism can be housed in the space inside the dial component assuming the cylindrical shape, ~~as disclosed in claim 2~~, so as to integrate the air-conditioning functions via the individual switch mechanisms. Furthermore, by forming a hollow space inside the sliding component as well, an ON indicator member can be housed inside the sliding component, ~~as disclosed in claim 3~~. Since the ratio of the area at the operating device taken up by the switch mechanisms and the ON indicator member can be reduced by adopting this structure, the degree of design freedom with regard to the layout on the operating device panel increases.